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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O, God, You are our God. Our thirsty souls seek You. Lord, we look to You for help, longing to see Your power and might because Your loving kindness is better than life.

Guide our Senators. Conform their lives more and more to fulfill Your purposes, using them as instruments of good in a challenging world. May they yield themselves to Your Spirit that Your promised kingdom of truth and righteousness may become the kingdom of all humanity.

Lord, today as we remember the 1998 U.S. Capitol shooting tragedy, we pause to thank You for the sacrifice of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 this afternoon. At 3:40 p.m., the Senate will conduct a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the U.S. Capital Police who were killed 13 years ago defending this Capitol against an armed intruder.

At 4:30 p.m., the Senate will be in executive session to consider the nomination of Paul Englemayer to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York and Ramona Manglona to be District Judge for the Northern Mariana Islands.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of the Englemayer nomination. The Manglona nomination is expected to be confirmed by voice vote.

Additional rollcall votes are possible this evening.

OFFICERS JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND JOHN M. GIBSON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every day people from across this great Nation around the globe come here to visit the Capitol—to see the seat of American democracy. Every day, those of us who are fortunate to have been elected by our home States to serve in Congress

also come here to represent this Nation and the American people in that democracy. Every day a brave and dedicated group of men and women come here to serve as Capitol police officers, to ensure that whether we are here to work or to visit, we are safe from harm. In 1998, two of those dedicated police officers gave their lives protecting this Capitol and the people in this Capitol. They were Special Agent John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut. Thirteen years ago yesterday, a man entered the House side of the Capitol building with a gun, shot officer Chestnut at point-blank range.

Agent Gibson warned tourists and staff to take cover and then confronted the gunman. Although Agent Gibson was also shot, he prevented anyone else from being killed. Both officers died that day. They served a combined 36 years on the force, protecting their fellow men and women.

When I first came to Washington, I worked the night shift—the swing shift—as a Capitol police officer. That is why I feel a particular closeness to the Capitol police. When I worked, I was never in danger. I was never called on to put my life on the line. I only hope I would have shown the bravery Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut displayed that afternoon they were killed.

I was a Member of the Senate when Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut gave their lives to save the lives of others. I know nothing can make up for the loss of a cherished loved one. We hope their families and friends take some comfort in knowing those of us who were here that day hold them in our memories and in our hearts. While I know it is little solace to their families, the tragedy of that day made the Capitol a safer place. It led to the construction of the Capitol Visitor Center which prevents a madman such as the one who shot Agent Gibson and Officer Chestnut from entering the Capitol. We are all grateful for their sacrifice, and we are grateful that every day devoted

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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